



# The Szyrman (Illouz) Family

**Nicole Szyrman (Illouz)** was born in Paris on May 1, 1939. Her parents were Pinchas Szyrman and Nelly Specht. Her father was born on July 6, 1907 in Warsaw Poland and her mother was born in Paris on August 13, 1908.

Pinchas' mother, Raizel (Rosalie) had immigrated from Warsaw, Poland to Paris in 1908. Rosalie was a widow and also had two daughters, Annette and Sarah. Annette was married to Raphael Maro and they had one son, Serge. Sarah was married and had two children, Madeleine and Samuel. Nelly had a sister Muguette who was born January 9, 1922 and lived in Paris with their mother Malka Specht.

Nelly married Pinchas Szyrman on July 16, 1936 in Paris. They had had one daughter, Nicole.

On May 10, 1940, Germany invaded France and defeated the French army within six weeks. France was divided into an Occupied Zone and a Free Zone under the control of a French government that collaborated with the Nazis. Paris was located in the Occupied Zone. All of the Nazi anti-Jewish laws were introduced in the Occupied Zone, including the regulation requiring Jews to wear the yellow star on their clothing. The Szyrman family was forced to put a sign in the window of their store that proclaimed the store to be Jewish-owned. The Gestapo arrested Pinchas Szyrman in May 1941 and sent him to an internment camp in Beaune-La-Roland. On June 26, 1942 he was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau where he was murdered. Nicole remained in Paris with her mother, grandmother (Malka) and aunt.

On July 16, 1942, the Nazis began mass arrests of Jews in Paris. The three women and Nicole went into hiding and eventually fled Paris. They were smuggled across the border into the eastern part of the French Free Zone. They eventually settled in the Protestant village of Vernoux in the province of Ardeche where they worked for local farmers.

The Germans invaded the province in April 1944 to round up the remaining Jews and members of the underground. When Nelly and Nicole went to the town square to do an errand they saw German trucks and soldiers. A local gendarme signaled Nelly to go away. A local pharmacist had told Nelly to bring Nicole there if she

needed to be hidden. Nelly went to the pharmacist to leave Nicole there but the pharmacist said that the Germans were looking for her son who was a member of the underground, so Nicole would not be safe there.

They went back to the house and all four of them fled to the woods where they slept that first night. Nelly went back to the house to see if it was safe to return, but she found out that the house had been ransacked by the Germans.

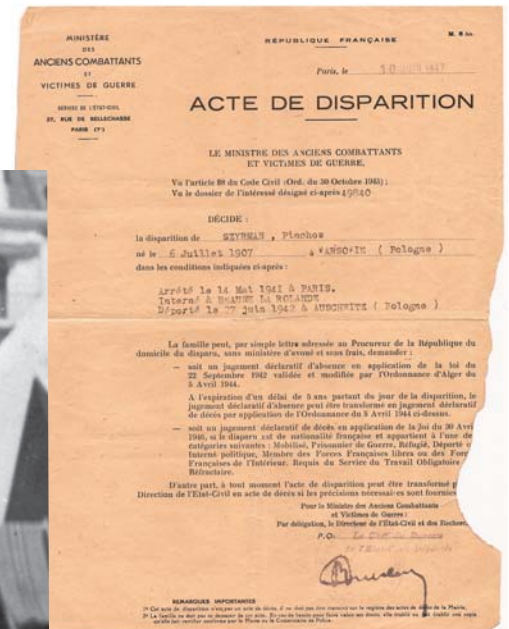
The family fled to Lyons where they had friends. They remained there until they were liberated by the American army in September 1944.

Pinchas' sister Annette survived Auschwitz but her husband was murdered there. Their son who was hidden with Christians in Grenoble before their deportation also survived. The remaining members of their family including his mother (Rosalie) and his sister Sarah all perished in the Holocaust. After the Nazis were defeated Nelly, Nicole, Malka, and Muguette went back home to Paris.

Nicole married Joseph Illouz and moved to Springfield, Massachusetts in 1969. Her mother, Nelly, joined her in 1998.



*Pinchas Szyrman and daughter Nicole, Paris, France 1939. Pinchas perished in the Holocaust. Nicole survived in hiding.*



*Certificate of Disappearance showing Pinchas Szyrman was arrested in Paris on May 14, 1941; imprisoned at Beaune-La-Roland; and deported to Auschwitz on June 27, 1942.*